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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/682,860	10/25/2001	David E. Barker	33-XZ-6082	9981

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EXAMINER

CONLEY, FREDRICK C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3673

DATE MAILED: 02/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/682,860

Applicant(s)

BARKER ET AL.

Examiner

Fredrick C Conley

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-17, and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 4,768,241 to Beney in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,852,842 to O'Neill.

In reference to claim 1, Beney discloses a patient table comprising:

a patient support surface 22 for supporting a patient during a medical procedure;

a base 10 supporting said patient support surface;

a monitor 104 displaying medical information relating to a medical procedure;

and

a pivot arm having a first end connected to said base and a second end connected to said monitor (fig. 1). Beney fails to disclose a pivot release member provided on one of said monitor and said pivot arm for releasably securing said monitor and said pivot arm at predetermined angular positions with respect to said base. O'Neill discloses a pivot arm 20 having a pivot release member 134 provided on the pivot arm for releasably securing an appliance and said pivot arm at predetermined angular positions. It would have been obvious to employ a pivot arm having a release member in order to position the monitor relative to the patient support surface.

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Regarding claim 2, wherein said pivot release member 134 is located on the end of said pivot arm 31 proximate to said monitor 30 (O'Neill).

Regarding claim 3, wherein said pivot release member 134 is located on the end of said pivot arm 31 ant to said base (O'Neill).

Regarding claim 4, wherein said pivot arm further comprises a fixed arm 38 connected to said first end of said pivot arm and to said base (O'Neill).

Regarding claim 5, wherein said pivot release member further comprises a hydraulic spring (col. 4 lines 39-40) for locking said pivot arm at said predefined angular positions.

Regarding claim 7, wherein said patient table 10 a urological table (col. 2 lines 15-21).

Regarding claim 8, wherein said patient table comprises a patient support surface which will support a patient in at least two examination positions for a medical procedure (col. 2 lines 15-21)(Beney), said pivot arm inherently capable of orienting said monitor in a first predetermined angular position parallel to the longitudinal axis of the table and another position at a second predetermined angular position perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the table (col. 1-2 lines 67-68 & 1)(O'Neill).

Regarding claim 9, wherein said patient table comprises a patient support surface which will support a patient in at least two examination positions, said pivot arm orienting said monitor at a predetermined angular position facing a side of the patient

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support surface and a second predetermined angular position facing an end of the patient support surface (col. 1-2 lines 67-68 & 1)(O'Neill).

Regarding claim 10, wherein said pivot arm is a moving mechanism (O'Neill).

In reference to claim 11, Beney discloses a urology table comprising:

a patient support surface 22 with opposed ends along a longitudinal axis with opposed sides transeverse to said longitudinal axis;

a monitor 104 displaying medical information relating to a medical procedure; and

a movable support member having a first end connected to said patient support surface and a second end connected to said monitor (fig. 1). Beney fails to disclose one of the ends being movable relative to a corresponding one of said monitor and support surface to move said monitor between a first position and second position. O'Neill discloses a pivot arm 20 having a pivot release member 134 provided on the pivot arm for releasably securing an appliance and said pivot arm at predetermined angular positions. It would have been obvious to employ a pivot arm having a release member in order to position the monitor relative to the patient support surface.

Regarding claim 12, wherein said pivot release member further comprises a hydraulic spring (col. 4 lines 39-40)(O'Neill) for locking said movable support member at, at least, one of said first and second viewing positions.

Regarding claim 14, wherein said movable support member comprises a fixed arm 38 and a pivot arm (31,33)(O'Neill).

Regarding claim 15, wherein said urology table further comprises a releasable control 134 remotely located that releases said movable support member (O'Neill).

In reference to claim 16, Beney discloses a urology table comprising:

a patient support surface 22 supporting a patient in at least two positions (col. 2 lines 15-21), a first position where the patient is lying horizontally on the patient support surface and the second position where the patient is sitting up vertically; and

a movable support member having a first end mounted to said patient support surface and a second end mounted to said monitor. Beney fails to disclose at least one of said ends being movable relative to a corresponding one of said monitor and patient support surface to move said monitor between a first and second viewing positions, in a first viewing position said monitor facing one direction when the patient is vertical, and in said second viewing position said monitor facing perpendicular to said first viewing position when the patient is horizontal. O'Neill discloses a movable support member (31,33) inherently having at least one ends being movable relative to a corresponding one of a monitor and patient support surface to move said monitor between a first and second viewing positions, in a first viewing position said monitor facing one direction when the patient is vertical, and in said second viewing position said monitor facing perpendicular to said first viewing position when the patient is horizontal. It would have been obvious to employ a pivot arm having a release member in order to position the monitor relative to the patient support surface.

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Regarding claim 17, wherein said movable support member further comprises a hydraulic spring (col. 4 lines 39-40) for locking said pivot arm at said predefined angular positions.

Regarding claim 19, wherein said pivot release member further comprises a hydraulic spring (col. 4 lines 39-40)(O'Neill) for locking said movable support member at, at least, one of said first and second viewing positions.

Regarding claim 20, wherein said movable support member comprises a fixed arm 38 and a pivot arm (31,33)(O'Neill).

Claims 6, 13, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 4,768,241 to Beney in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,852,842 O'Neill, and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,398,622 to Lubinskas et al.

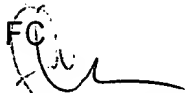
Regarding claim 6, 13, and 18, Beney, as modified discloses all of the Applicant's claimed limitations except for having a hydraulic line extending between said hydraulic spring. Lubinskas discloses an apparatus having a hydraulic line (74,75) extending between a hydraulic spring 55. It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to employ hydraulic lines in order to adjust the movable support.


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fredrick C Conley whose telephone number is 308-7468. The examiner can normally be reached on m-th m-fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Shackelford can be reached on 308-2978. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 305-7687 for regular communications and 3057687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 308-2168.

FC

January 30, 2003


TERI PHAM LUU
PRIMARY EXAMINER